



REPI

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
READINESS AND ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION INTEGRATION PROGRAM

PROJECT PROFILES

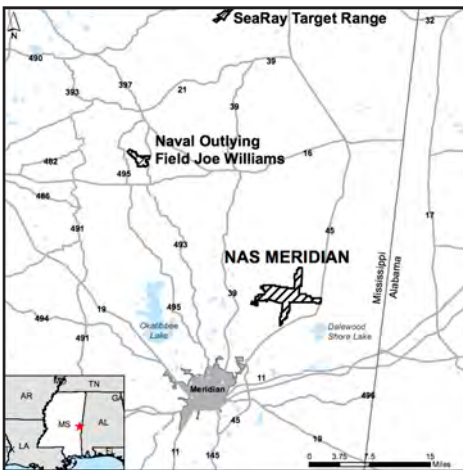
U.S. NAVY | MISSISSIPPI



NAVAL AIR STATION MERIDIAN

Naval Air Station (NAS) Meridian is one of the Navy's premier two newest air installations and one of just two DOD locations providing intermediate and advanced jet training for carrier operations.

As the Navy's largest air station, it was specifically designed for jet aircraft rather than propeller planes. The main station is located a short distance from the Meridian Complex's military operations area airspace, target range, and outlying



field to maximize training time and fuel efficiency.

Supporting NAS Meridian's mission is an unconstrained training environment where only minimal conflicts related to noise allow jets to practice intensive carrier landings until midnight during frequent carrier qualification training. The rural lands around the air station allow NAS Meridian to support over 191,000 flight operations a year while training 150 student aviators.

Easements on these rural lands along

the installation boundary and in high noise areas will permanently protect this important Navy capability.

Meanwhile, NAS Meridian is working with Lauderdale and Kemper Counties to develop new airport zoning ordinances and with the counties, city of Meridian, and town of Marion on a Joint Land Use Study to further protect the military mission. Together with community outreach and education efforts, strengthening military-community partnerships will ensure the viability of a key economic driver in the Meridian and Lauderdale County region.

BENEFIT SUMMARY

COMMUNITY

- Preserves forest land and water resources
- Sustains the economic viability of local communities
- Supports local coordinated planning efforts

MILITARY

- Protects initial aviation training that generates significant amounts of noise
- Improves operational safety
- Avoids the use of less realistic workarounds or restrictions on training



As one of two Navy jet strike pilot training facilities, NAS Meridian hosts Training Air Wing-1 and the T-45 Goshawk (top), used to train Navy and Marine Corps student aviators (bottom).

KEY PARTNERS

- Kemper County
- Kings County
- Lauderdale County
- Mississippi Development Authority
- State of Mississippi
- Sequoia River Lands Trust
- Tulare Basin Wildlife Partners
- West Hills Community College District

FAST FACTS THROUGH 30 SEP 2022

- ACRES PRESERVED: 1,260
- TRANSACTIONS CONDUCTED: 22
- TOTAL FUNDS EXPENDED: \$1.1 million
- PROJECT STATUS: In Progress

CONTACT

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